

NSTISSP 7
21 February 1995

NSTISS
NATIONAL
SECURITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS
SECURITY

NATIONAL POLICY
ON SECURE ELECTRONIC
MESSAGING SERVICES

NSTISSC

National Security
Telecommunication and
Information Systems
Security Committee

CHAIR

FOREWORD

In accordance with the findings and recommendations of the National Performance Review and the Joint Security Commission report, the Administration has established as a national priority the reevaluation and improvement of federal information technology and information systems security practices.

As the federal government takes steps to provide for governmentwide and public electronic messaging, it is imperative that the national architecture include compatible services for national security systems in order to promote efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and reliability.

EMMETT PAIGE, JR.

NATIONAL POLICY
ON
SECURE ELECTRONIC MESSAGING SERVICES

SECTION I - POLICY

1. Federal government departments and agencies shall establish and implement a program for secure governmentwide interoperable electronic messaging services for the protection of information contained on national security systems.
2. This policy shall be implemented to assure rapid progress in achieving this goal. Specifically, plans and programs shall be designed to achieve substantial implementation by the year 2000.
3. This Policy shall be implemented by appropriate NSTISSC issuances that establish common standards and procedures necessary to achieve these goals

SECTION II - DEFINITIONS

4. Electronic messaging services are those which, in addition to providing interpersonal messaging capability, meet specified functional, management and technical requirements and, taken together, yield a business-quality electronic mail service suitable for the conduct of official government business.

5. National security systems are those telecommunications and information systems operated by the U.S. Government, its contractors, or agents, that contain classified information or, as set forth in 10 U.S.C. Section 2315, that involve intelligence activities, involve cryptologic activities related to national security, involve command and control of military forces, involve equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapon system, or involve equipment that is critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions.

SECTION III - APPLICABILITY

6. This policy applies to all federal departments and agencies that use national security systems.

SECTION IV - RESPONSIBILITIES

7. Heads of federal departments and agencies for which this policy applies shall develop, fund, implement and manage programs necessary to assure that the goals of this policy are achieved and that plans, programs and NSTISSC issuances which implement this policy are fully supported.

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